

unnamed, smoke-filled venues. A lover of opera, she has long been a subscriber to the Houston Grand Opera and Opera in the Heights.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" and "job well done" to June Kenyon for her years of loyal service to Congressman Jack Fields and myself, but most of all to the people of Southeast Texas whom she has served with distinction.

INTRODUCTION OF REFUGEES FROM ARAB LANDS RESOLUTION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced a legislation acknowledging as refugees Jewish, Christian and other minorities that fled from Arab lands.

This measure serves to recognize major historical events, sheds light on other refugee populations that are often forgotten in discussions relating to Middle East peace, and underscores the need to address this issue in a comprehensive, balanced manner in order to resolve the conflict that currently exists in the Middle East.

It is imperative that the world knows about the displacement, which was spurred by ethnic and religious persecution, of Jewish, Christian and other minorities living in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region.

For too long the world has failed to recognize the oppression, human rights violations, forced expulsion, and deprivation of assets these communities had to endure under Arab regimes.

It is essential that the plight of these communities from Arab countries be integrated into discussions toward any agreement regarding the issue of refugees.

RECOGNIZING TROY VINCENT SHOEMAKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Vincent Shoemaker, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Vincent Shoemaker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF MARSHALL'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Marshall in Searcy County, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for the community and for all who helped shape the town's history.

Marshall was established in 1856, after Native Americans roamed the land for centuries. The Osage tribe used the land for hunting and gathering in the 18th century and then sold their claim to the United States government. Nine years later, the government set aside the land as a reservation for the Cherokee Indians.

By the mid-1800's, the Cherokees traveled west and Littleton Baker, J.W. Gray, and Jack Marshall were appointed to select a site for the new county seat of Searcy County. They originally named this location Burrowsville in honor of N.B. Burrow, a local citizen, but 11 years later changed the name to Marshall in honor of the former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. The town was eventually incorporated on January 13, 1884.

Marshall played an important role during the War Between the States, becoming a hub of activity for both Confederate and Northern forces after Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6, 1861. Both Confederate and Union companies organized in the area, participating in the battles of Shiloh, Pea Ridge, Pine Bluff, and Devil's Backbone.

The town worked hard to recover and rebuild in the decades following the war. Marshall established its first school district, constructed the Marshall Academy in 1888, and built a new courthouse in 1889. Agriculture production dominated the economy in Searcy County, with cotton and corn ranking as the primary agricultural products. The community even established the Mountain Wave newspaper in 1890 which continues to inform residents on the latest local and national news.

The town enjoyed great prosperity during these early years. The Marshall Bank was established in 1901 and the town's first telephone system was constructed in 1902. The town's first flour mill came around the turn of the century, quickly followed by its first stove mill in 1909. The community built a new school building known as "Old Main" in 1910 and completed the first all-weather road between Marshall and Harriet in 1916.

Although the first few decades of the 20th century were a time of growth for Marshall, the combination of World War I, the Great Depression, and serious flooding led to difficult times for the community's residents. The population began to decline and those living off the land struggled to maintain a decent livelihood. Fortunately, many of Searcy County's residents joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, and the National Youth Administration, NYA, where they could earn a decent wage. One of the NYA's projects was to construct a gymnasium in Marshall in 1936.

Marshall and its surrounding communities pulled together during these challenging times, emerging stronger than before. Families in Marshall made victory gardens during WWII,

saved tin cans for reprocessing, and even purchased war bonds. Farmers also began to clear land for cattle production and timber harvesting. These two industries now contribute heavily to Marshall's local economy.

Marshall has always been a town of citizens who pull together during tough times to improve its schools, help businesses grow, and attract new development to the region. The town now boasts a population of 1,313 citizens and is home to the Ozark National Forest and the Buffalo National River. Known for its beauty, tourists visit the mountainous region year-round to participate in a variety of popular recreational activities.

On June 3, 2006, friends and residents of Marshall will gather to celebrate 150 years of history. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marshall, Arkansas on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the town's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community, and wish Marshall many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

THANKS TO ALLEN L. THOMPSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Allen L. Thompson, Senior Professional Staff of the Committee on Homeland Security, for his dedication and service to Congress and our Nation. As the Ranking Member of the Committee, I speak for the entire Committee when I say he will be missed when he leaves the Hill at the end of this month.

Al was one of the original Democratic staffers of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, the predecessor of the now-permanent Committee. During the past 3 years, he has been one of the "best and the brightest" working to secure our homeland and protect our communities. A Coast Guard Academy graduate, Al brought a unique perspective and discipline to the Committee.

With his expertise and knowledge of port security, supply chain policy, and the Coast Guard, Al has certainly been a key member of the House's homeland security team. This Congress, Al has served as the Coordinator for Ranking Member LORETTA SANCHEZ on the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity. Representative SANCHEZ has this to say about Al, "During my nearly 10 years in the House of Representatives, I've run across very few people with the level of professionalism and decorum matching that of Al Thompson. As the liaison assigned to assist me with my work as Ranking Member of this subcommittee, Al's expertise and Coast Guard background was invaluable in helping me forward the Democratic agenda of this young Committee, particularly in the area of port security. He will be sorely missed by those of us who had the pleasure of working with him."

Former Representative Jim Turner, who served as the Ranking Member of the Select Committee during the 108th Congress, sent me the following comments when he heard of Al's departure: "When Al first joined the Select Committee in June 2003, I knew he came for